

**TRAFFIC SAFETY AND PARKING COMMITTEE MINUTES****Wednesday, January 7, 2009 - 7:00 pm**San Bruno City Hall  
567 El Camino Real  
San Bruno, CA 94066**MINUTES****1. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS -****A. ROLL CALL**

<u>TSPC Members:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
(Chair) Mark Howard	X	
Eric Wood (Vice-Chair)	X	
Tom Hamilton	X	
Doris Maez	X	
Sol Weiner	X	

Staff in Attendance:Klara Fabry, Public Services Director  
Steve Davis, Public Works Department  
Frans Lind, Public Works Department  
Matt Campi, Police DepartmentPublic in Attendance Total: 9**2. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Mark Howard recommended moving Item 5A to the beginning of the agenda for the benefit of members of the public. (M/Howard, S/Weiner: 5-0-0) Approved.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mark Howard stated there was a correction on the total number of public attendees. The listed number on the minutes was 17, but the actual public in attendance was 37. Correction noted. Approval of the minutes for the December 3, 2008 meeting made by Mark Howard, second by Sol Weiner (M/Howard, S/Weiner: 5-0-0) Approved.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

**5. REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. Consideration of Traffic Calming Measures in the Vicinity of Parkside Intermediate School and St. Robert's School, Including Niles Avenue and Oak Avenue from Crystal Springs Avenue to Jenevein Avenue

Frans Lind stated this issue is being reviewed in response to a student bicycle fatality that occurred in April 2008 on Niles Avenue. The City Council voiced concern over the accident and asked the TSPC to conduct a hearing to address the neighborhood concerns in the Niles and Oak area, including Parkside and St. Robert's schools. In June of 2008, the TSPC conducted the meeting and heard neighborhood concerns, which included:

- Pedestrian crossing safety on Niles
- Heavy traffic during school drop off and pick up on Niles
- Lack of vehicles stopping at the existing stop sign on Chestnut
- Speeding vehicles on Oak Avenue as well as pedestrians (probably Parkside students) crossing mid-block
- Poor visibility at the intersections of Niles and Oak Avenue and Clark and Oak Avenue
- Lack of yellow crosswalks on Oak Avenue except at the St. Robert's school entrance

City staff has investigated the affected intersections, including inspection of existing signing and striping. There are existing crosswalks across all of the streets that intersect with Niles Avenue. Out of the seven streets that intersect Niles, there are existing stop signs on Cedar, Maple and Chestnut. The other streets in the neighborhood that do not have stop signs are Donner, Redwood, Cherry and Beech. There are also no existing "school crossing ahead" signs except one sign on Maple. Beech Avenue actually has the worst sight distance due to its vertical curve that rises up to a crest about 100 feet from the intersection. There are existing three way crosswalks at the intersection of Cedar and Niles but there are no stop signs at the Niles and Cedar intersection. Oak crests at Chestnut with a three way stop but no crosswalks. The advance pavement messages that exist are on Hawthorne approaching eastbound Niles and on Oak and state "school crossing ahead". There is also a pavement messages on Niles that states, "school crossing ahead". There is an existing "yield" sign on Clark as well.

Frans spoke to the principals of St. Robert's and Parkside schools. St. Robert's personnel must park on the street, as the parking lot is reserved as a playground. Parkside school representatives were very supportive of traffic calming measures, especially the installation of a stop sign at Oak and Niles.

Frans stated the staff recommendation is for the installation of stop signs and yellow crosswalk on both sides of Oak Avenue and 20 linear feet of red curbing, with 10 feet at the end of the crosswalk and 10 feet at eastbound Niles approaching the stop sign to provide mutual pedestrian/vehicular clear sight assistance. An alternative to the stop sign would be to install 40 feet of red curbing to the left of the stop sign at Oak Avenue to provide the clear sight distance. Staff would also like to add advance-warning signs to the remaining six unmarked intersections. An existing bus stop has 40 feet of red curbing at Cedar but the travel lane is substandard at only eight feet wide and the centerline needs to be moved. On Donner at Niles, it is not apparent that there is an intersection with a crosswalk approaching, so some warning signage may be recommended. Under the MUTCD guidelines, the stop signs are justified. There were 1530-1550 vehicles per day traveling on Oak Avenue and the speed limit is 25 mph. The measured 85% speed was 26.5 mph over two days.

Steve Davis stated that if the average driver is traveling within 5 mph of the average speed limit, then there is not a concern of speeding.

Mark Howard confirmed that the staff recommendation is to install two stops signs at the intersection of Oak Avenue at Niles and 30 feet of red curbing on the easterly side of Oak Avenue from the residential

driveway that is opposite the southerly intersection corner; paint 20 linear feet of red curbing on each side of Oak Avenue at the existing crosswalk at the main St. Robert's School entrance; install stop signs as justified by warrant criteria at the four side street intersections of Niles Avenue with Donner, Redwood, Cherry and Beech; and add 10 feet of red curbing on the south side of Niles approaching the stop sign at Oak.

Tom Hamilton asked about the advance warning signs that were discussed. Frans responded that City staff will handle signage, so the TSPC does not need to address it.

Mark Howard asked if notices were sent to the residents on this. Frans confirmed that notices were sent as well as the area that was covered in the mailing.

Sol Weiner asked how many notices were sent. Frans responded that about 150 notices were sent. Sol Weiner stated he expected a larger resident turnout. He also urged residents to attend the City Council meeting regarding this issue and voice their concerns.

Doris Maez asked if the traffic counts were taken last August, was school in session at that time? Steve Davis responded that counts were taken right after the festival. Doris Maez also asked that if the St. Robert's school parking lot is used as a playground, is that in compliance with their use permit? Steve Davis responded that staff can research that and give feedback at the next meeting.

Eric Wood asked if Niles is scheduled for repaving in the near future in order to move the centerline that was mentioned by Frans? Frans responded that he is not aware of any upcoming paving projects on Niles. There is an annual street-resurfacing project performed by the City and Niles may be considered in this year's list of streets. This was just a general traffic calming recommendation. Eric Wood asked how important moving the centerline is for traffic safety. Frans responded that at this time, there is only eight feet available for vehicles to travel on Niles due to vehicles parking on both sides of the street.

Frans Lind stated there is a correction on the recommendation under Item 1 of the staff report for this item, which states "install two stop signs on Oak Avenue at Niles Avenue and paint 30 ft. of red curbing" but its should actually state "paint 20 feet of red curbing".

Doris Maez confirmed that the diagonal crosswalk that runs in front of Parkside School runs into a driveway into the school. Frans responded that the crosswalk is at a diagonal angle to avoid the driveway into the school parking lot and avoid vehicles at that location.

Doris Maez asked what measures there are to protect pedestrians at that location, since there is a lot of traffic with parents dropping off and picking up their children. Commander Campi stated there is generally a school staff member in the lot directing traffic during those times. Frans stated there is also a stop sign at the driveway approach.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPENED**

Jerry Imboden, 328 Oak Avenue, stated stop signs on Niles will help slow people down but there is also the problem of vehicles coming down the wrong side of the road and being parked on the wrong side of the road.

Bob Baker, 400 Beech, stated the parking lot at Parkside needs to have the bushes trimmed down near the driveway exit for visibility. He supports all the recommendations made by staff to date and would like to see both stop signs at Oak and Niles installed. Red curbing at the corners, especially at the south side of Oak at Niles, would be very helpful.

Randy Burrous, 416 Oak Avenue, wanted to thank City staff for working on this issue. Oak Avenue traffic needs to be slowed down.

Valerie Garmeson, 462 Oak Avenue, stated she'd like to see speed bumps or some other device to slow people down. Kids are going to get hurt if they don't slow cars down.

John Tursi, 1304 Niles, stated young drivers have been flying down that intersection for years. Maybe if police officers went to the schools and talked to these kids a couple of times each year about traffic safety, it would help.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSED**

Doris Maez stated Oak Avenue does not seem to have a large number of cars.

Mark Howard made a motion to accept the recommendations as noted. Second by Doris Maez. (M/ Howard/Maez: 5-0-0) Approved.

#### **B. Consideration of New Parking Restrictions in the 1200 Block of Commodore Drive**

Frans Lind stated that staff received a letter from the manager of Peninsula Place apartments on Cherry Avenue asking for traffic options to improve visibility when exiting the parking lot driveway on Commodore Drive about 120 feet east of the intersection of Cherry and Commodore. Curbside parking limits the visibility on this location, especially when large vehicles park adjacent to the driveway. At night the curb parking is full. Frans stated a resident called to give support to red curbing at this location.

Sol Weiner stated trucks block the views on Commodore. The problem is not just on Cherry but also on Sneath.

Tom Hamilton stated the biggest problem is the large vehicles parking there.

Staff recommendation is to paint red curbing along the north side of Commodore Drive at the Commodore Drive driveway entrance to the apartments, 40 linear feet eastward measured from the midpoint of the east driveway curb return (looking left from exiting the driveway) and 16 feet westward toward Cherry Avenue from the midpoint of the west side driveway return.

Mark Howard made a motion to approve the recommendation. Second by Doris Maez. Sol Weiner abstained. (M/ Howard, S/Maez: 4-0-1) Approved.

## **6. REPORT OF COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Doris Maez, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee representative, stated on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month the Redwood City Planning Department hosted a forum on streetcars.

## **7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Doris Maez asked for an update on the pilot car escorting the large truck up from St. Robert's School to Crystal Springs Avenue. Frans stated he would check with San Bruno Police about having the truck waiting area moved to a yard at Millbrae.

## **8. COMMENTS FROM STAFF –**

Klara Fabry stated City Manager Connie Jackson approved the red curbing on Crystal Springs and the stop sign on WB Crystal Springs. The next City Council meeting is January 13.

**9. ADJOURNMENT –**

Motion: To adjourn the Traffic Safety and Parking Committee (TSPC) meeting until it's next regular scheduled meeting on February 4, 2009 at 7 p.m.

(M/Howard, S/Hamilton): 5-0-0 - Approved. Meeting Adjourned, 8:30 pm.